Rating change **II**

Target price change ☑ Estimate change ☑



Company Focus

7 March 2008 | 8 pages

Biocon (BION.BO)

Sell: No Pressing Reason to Buy

■ Cutting TP to Rs436, Maintain Sell — as we cut our FY09-10E earnings estimates by 13-17% & raise our risk rating to Medium as we expect medium term challenges to persist despite the progress on longer term growth & R&D initiatives. Biocon's high exposure to the appreciating rupee & pressure on capital efficiency remain a worry.

- Long-term initiatives on course Biocon continues to build growth drivers & diversify its business. Its oral insulin molecule (IN-505) is set to begin P-I trials in Sweden & P-II trials (India & Sweden) shortly. Early signs on Biomab are encouraging (run rate of cRs200m). It also intends to front end in overseas markets inorganically, which is a positive, albeit challenging, step in our view.
- Timelines are uncertain We believe that the visibility on these growth drivers, especially on the timelines, is still low. The best case launch scenario for a biosimilar in EU is end CY09/CY10, in our view. The US is further behind & we believe it is unlikely that a regulatory pathway will be finalized before CY10. In the interim, we expect continued pressure on its core business profitability.
- Potential catalysts a) possible listing of Syngene by FY09 end; b) outlicensing deals for oral insulin & T-1H over next 12 months; c) overseas acquisitions in research services & front ends in target markets. On the other hand, we expect consensus earnings estimates for FY09 & FY10 to come down over the year and act as a negative overhang on the stock.

Sell/Medium Risk	3 M
from Sell/Low Risk	
Price (05 Mar 08)	Rs428.15
Target price	Rs436.00
from Rs501.00	
Expected share price return	1.8%
Expected dividend yield	0.8%
Expected total return	2.6%
Market Cap	Rs42,815M
	US\$1,065M

Price Perform	ance (RIC	: BION.BO,	BB: BIOS IN)
INR			
600		/	١.,٨
550		/	$\backslash \backslash \backslash \backslash$
500		\sim	`\
450	1	\sim	\ ,
400		J	\~
350			· · · ·
30 M ar	29 Jun	28 Sep	31 Dec

Year to	Net Profit	Diluted EPS	EPS growth	P/E	P/B	ROE	Yield
31 Mar	(RsM)	(Rs)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)
2006A	1,778	17.78	-9.7	24.1	4.8	21.8	0.6
2007A	2,003	20.03	12.6	21.4	4.0	20.5	0.7
2008E	2,181	21.81	8.9	19.6	2.9	17.0	0.8
2009E	2,562	25.62	17.5	16.7	2.5	15.9	0.9
2010E	3,033	30.33	18.4	14.1	2.1	16.3	1.1

See Appendix A-1 for Analyst Certification and important disclosures.

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2006	2007	2008E	2009E	2010E
24.1	21.4	19.6	16.7	14.1
18.2	15.4	14.6	11.5	9.0
4.8	4.0	2.9	2.5	2.1
0.6	0.7	8.0	0.9	1.1
17.78	20.03	21.81	25.62	30.33
17.78	20.03	46.51	27.20	31.91
88.81	106.86	149.67	172.52	199.28
2.50	3.00	3.27	3.84	4.55
7,919	9,857	10,654	12,956	15,656
-5,889	-7,688	-8,647	-10,454	-12,415
2,030	2,169	2,007	2,502	3,242
-18	-98	-104	-83	-35
				423
•	•		•	3,630
				-454
		,		14
	•	•	•	3,191 3,033
				4,493
2,320	2,000	2,347	3,330	4,433
11.0	24.5	0 1	21.6	20.8
				29.6
				24.9
-9.7	12.6	8.9	17.5	18.4
769	1,482	5,419	3,480	3,987
297	665	940	1,096	1,251
-1,265	-1,281	-232	-493	-633
-888	-1,991	-5,010	-2,650	-2,600
-2,284	-1,905	-2,750	-2,500	-1,800
0	0	0	0	0
				-1,664
				-1,150
				-514
-347	0	-229	-33	-278
				25,119
				18
				4,919
			,	12,908
				5,025 3,476
				0,470
				20,094
29 4	28.8	27 7	27.8	28.7
21.8	20.5	17.0	15.9	16.3
21.5	18.0	13.9	15.2	16.4
21.5 11.6	18.0 16.7	13.9 10.3	15.2 6.5	16.4 -0.1
	24.1 18.2 4.8 0.6 17.78 17.78 17.78 88.81 2.50 7,919 -5,889 2,030 -18 51 2,064 -306 20 1,778 1,778 2,326 11.2 1.1 4.2 -9.7 769 297 -1,265 -888 -2,284 0 -227 -347 12,874 20 2,237 8,270 3,960 2,184 1,050 8,913	24.1 21.4 18.2 15.4 4.8 4.0 0.6 0.7 17.78 20.03 17.78 20.03 17.78 20.03 88.81 106.86 2.50 3.00 7,919 9,857 -5,889 -7,688 2,030 2,169 -18 -98 51 38 2,064 2,110 -306 -169 20 62 1,778 2,003 1,778 2,003 1,778 2,003 2,326 2,835 11.2 24.5 1.1 6.9 4.2 21.9 -9.7 12.6 769 1,482 297 665 -1,265 -1,281 -888 -1,991 -2,284 -1,905 0 0 -227 515 0 800 -227 515 0 800 -227 -285 -347 6 12,874 15,744 20 87 2,237 3,065 8,270 9,145 3,960 5,065 2,184 2,324 1,050 1,868 8,913 10,678	24.1 21.4 19.6 18.2 15.4 14.6 4.8 4.0 2.9 0.6 0.7 0.8 17.78 20.03 21.81 17.78 20.03 46.51 88.81 106.86 149.67 2.50 3.00 3.27 7,919 9,857 10,654 -5,889 -7,688 -8,647 2,030 2,169 2,007 -18 -98 -104 51 38 371 2,064 2,110 2,274 -306 -169 -136 20 62 2,513 1,778 2,003 2,181 2,326 2,835 2,947 11.2 24.5 8.1 1.1 6.9 -7.5 4.2 21.9 3.9 -9.7 12.6 8.9 769 1,482 5,419 297 665 940 -1,265 -1,281 -232 -888 -1,991<	24.1 21.4 19.6 16.7 18.2 15.4 14.6 11.5 4.8 4.0 2.9 2.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 17.78 20.03 21.81 25.62 17.78 20.03 46.51 27.20 88.81 106.86 149.67 172.52 2.50 3.00 3.27 3.84 7,919 9,857 10,654 12,956 -5,889 -7,688 -8,647 -10,454 2,030 2,169 2,007 2,502 -18 -98 -104 -83 51 38 371 385 2,064 2,110 2,274 2,804 -306 -169 -136 -168 20 62 2,513 83 1,778 2,003 4,651 2,720 1,778 2,003 2,181 2,562 2,326 2,835 2,947 3,59

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No Pressing Reason to Buy

We maintain our Sell rating on Biocon with a 13% reduction in target price to Rs436/share as we cut earnings estimates by 13-17% over FY08-10E. We expect medium term challenges to persist for Biocon despite the progress on longer term growth & R&D initiatives. Biocon's high exposure to the appreciating rupee & pressure on capital efficiency remains a worry, which along with the higher risk premium in equity markets, lead us to raise our risk rating to Medium (from Low earlier).

Reducing Earnings, Target Price

We reduce our earnings estimates for Biocon by 13-17% over FY08-10E and cut our target price to Rs436/share. We continue to value Biocon at 17x 12 month forward earnings – a premium to other second tier generics stocks in our coverage – to account for any potential upside from its efforts in innovative R&D or listing of its research subsidiary.

Lowering earnings estimates by 13-17%

We lower our earnings estimates for Biocon by 13% and 17% for FY09 and FY10 respectively, primarily on the back of:

- We factor in lower growth rates in the research services business due to rupee appreciation. This is however partially offset by higher growth built in for insulin and Biomab
- We reduce our EBIDTA margins to reflect a flat to marginal positive trend (100bps improvement over FY08-10E) as against the 250bps improvement expected earlier. The lower margin assumptions are on the back of the lower growth rate assumed in the higher margin research services business
- Higher depreciation charges on the back of the aggressive capex being incurred – especially in Syngene

Cutting Target Price to Rs436/share

We cut our target price to Rs436/share on the back of our lower earnings estimates. We continue to value Biocon at 17xFY09E earnings, which is now at a premium to our valuation for most second & third line generics despite Biocon's tepid growth rates in order to account for any upside from its research initiatives and / or listing of Syngene.

Figure 1. Earnings Revision

YE March	2009E	2010E
Revenues		
New	12,956	15,656
Old	13,159	15,194
% Change	(1.5)	3.0
EBITDA		
New	3,598	4,493
Old	3,860	4,582
% Change	(6.8)	(1.9)
Net Profit		
New	2,562	3,037
Old	2,945	3,643
% Change	(13.0)	(16.6)

Source: Citi Investment Research estimates

Company description

Biocon is an integrated biotechnology company encompassing all three critical stages of drug development – drug discovery, development, and manufacturing and commercialization of biopharmaceuticals and enzymes. With more than 25 years of expertise in fermentation technology, the company has built strong capabilities in high-growth segments like statins, immunosuppressants and anti-diabetes. While statins form the major part of its

immunosuppressants and anti-diabetes. While statins form the major part of its current business, Biocon is aggressively pursuing the biogenerics opportunity in regulated markets and is also making investments in drug discovery research to build a future pipeline.

Biocon

Investment strategy

We have a Sell/Medium Risk rating on Biocon with a target price of Rs436 (Rs501 earlier) in view of the nascent nature of longer-term growth initiatives. Despite several initiatives being taken by the company to emerge as a biotechnology major, Biocon remains primarily an API player with high exposure to the statins segment. While initial expectations of high growth from the statins opportunity in Europe and the US have been belied owing to stiff competition and pricing pressure, there is still no clarity on when the biogenerics opportunity would open up in these markets. Unlike other Indian companies, Biocon still does not have the requisite breadth in its product portfolio to overcome the pressure on statins and delays in biogenerics launches. The setbacks on pravastatin and simvastatin in the US in CY06 reflect the high sensitivity of Biocon's earnings to a delayed launch and are an indication of the vulnerability of the company's business model. We believe a similar trend may emerge in case simvastatin prices decline significantly in the US and/or if ramp-up in some of its new products is slower than expected. Overall, we expect a 24% CAGR in net profit for Biocon over FY07-10E, even after factoring in the full impact of statin sales in the US market and aggressive ramp-up in research services as well as insulin and BIOMAB sales. Valuations appear expensive relative to the growth outlook and the vulnerability of earnings in the near to medium term.

Valuation

We value Biocon on a P/E basis given that its earnings profile is normalized and unlikely to change materially in the medium term. Our target price of Rs436 (v/s Rs501 earlier) is based on 17x March 09 earnings, which is at a premium to our target range for mid-sized generic pharma companies (such as Cadila, Orchid, Wockhardt) in order to account for any progress in the former's research initiatives and / or listing of Syngene. Biocon's earnings FY07-10E CAGR at 17% is among the lowest in our coverage universe; however, we still give it a multiple in-line with other mid-sized pharma companies to factor in any positive surprise from its partnership-based R&D initiatives and recent product launches. While earnings growth has turned positive in FY07, after a disappointing FY06, the higher vulnerability of Biocon's business model to pricing pressure and delayed product launches /scale-up leads us to refrain from assigning a higher multiple.

Risks

We rate Biocon Medium Risk (as against Low Risk earlier). The higher risk rating reflects the high vulnerability of the company's profitability to a strengthening rupee and the higher risk premium in equity markets. The main downside risks to our target price and estimates include: (1) continued erosion in prices of statins in Europe and the US; and (2) inability to deliver on promises to outlicense R&D molecules within the next 12 months. The main

upside risks to our target price and estimates include: (1) any upside from Biocon's R&D initiatives, which we have not incorporated into our estimates; (2) any significant value unlocking through efforts to list Syngene and (3) earlier than expected upside from biogenerics in regulated markets.

Appendix A-1

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